

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00

OMB-01 IO-10 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /095 W

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O R 121552Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2042

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: COUP ATTEMPT AFTERMATH

1. CDS AND PDC HEADQUARTERS IN OPORTO AND LISBON WERE SACKED
NIGHT MARCH 11 BY LARGE CROWDS OF LEFTISTS. IN ADDITION, A MOB
RANSACKED PPD BRANCH HEADQUARTERS IN OPORTO AS WELL AS A SOCIALIST
BRANCH IN LISBON. A PPD SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THIS MORNING THAT
PPD LAST NIGHT BURNED MANY OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT RECORDS IN
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND REMOVED MUCH OF THE REST. THE PARTY

HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO ABANDON SOME OF ITS SMALLER AND PHYSICALLY INSECURE BRANCH OFFICES AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THE WAKE OF THREATS AND ATTACKS ON THEM BY VARIOUS FAR LEFTIST GROUPS. (TWO PPD MEMBERS WERE BEATEN UP YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AS THEY DISTRIBUTED PARTY LITERATURE FROM THEIR CAR IN DOWNTOWN LISBON--ONE STABBED.) WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT TWO SOCIALIST LEADERS (PEDRO SOARES--(SON OF MARIO SOARES)-- AND MANUEL ALEGRE MET WITH PPD POLITICAL COMMITTEE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 12, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THEIR MUTUAL SECURITY PROBLEMS.

2. A CROWD OF UDP MILITANTS BROKE INTO GEN. SPINOLA'S APARTMENT LATE LAST NIGHT, CARRYING OFF OR DESTROYING MUCH OF ITS CONTENTS.

3. SPANISH-PORTUGUESE BORDER IS OPEN. BRITISH EMBOFF REPORTS THAT A UK CITIZEN TRAVELING FROM BADAJOZ, SPAIN TO LISBON WAS STOPPED TODAY AT CHECK POINTS SET UP BY VIGILANTE GROUPS, CHECKING FOR ARMS AND PEOPLE. USCIT TRAVELING BETWEEN LISBON AND SETUBAL WAS STOPPED 3 TIMES AT MILITARY CHECK POINTS.

4. BANKS ARE CLOSED. WE HAVE REPORTS THEY MAY REOPEN TOMMORROW. COMATT REPORTS NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY AMERICAN FIRMS OR BUSINESSMEN SO FAR.

5. PRESS AND RADIO ARE REPORTING ARRESTS OF MANY OLD REGIME LOCAL FIGURES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. A HALF DOZEN MEMBERS OF ESPIRITO SANTAO SILVA FAMILY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND SENT TO CAXIAS PRISON. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED ARE CARLOS DE MELO, JORGE ESPIRITO SANTO SILVA AND JOSE MARIA ESPIRITO SANTO SILVA, ALL PROMINENT IN FAMILY BANK, ONE OF NATION'S LARGEST.

6. PRESS REPORTS AN INCIDENT BETWEEN PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (PSP) IN OPORTO AND A CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS, IN WHICH 10 PERSONS INJURED, ONE BY GUNSHOT. CAUSE OF INCIDENT NOT KNOWN.

7. IN YESTERDAY'S ATTACK ON RAL-1 ONE SOLIDER WAS KILLED AND 12 PERSONS WOUNDED, ALL IN STRAFING -BOMBING ATTACK. ONE OF 3 ATTACKING PLANES WAS HIT BI FIRE FROM COPCON FORCES AND FORCED TO LAND AT NEARBY LISBON AIRPORT SOON AFTER BEGINNING OF ATTACK. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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